



SPEAKER'S BIO



SCOTT M. SOMMER

COMMISSIONER
FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE

Commissioner Scott M. Sommer, a lifelong New Yorker, born and raised in Brooklyn, is assigned to the FMCS Region 1 New York City Metropolitan office in Iselin, New Jersey. He has experience with the public (federal, state, and local) and private sector, including healthcare (hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities), manufacturing, hospitality and food service, arts and entertainment, digital media, social and legal services organizations, and institutions of K-12 and higher education and related services. Scott recently mediated the end of an eight-week strike at a supplier of critical parts to a major Aerospace manufacturer.

Additionally, Scott has helped craft and participate in numerous training programs, most recently for public sector workers on Long Island, nurses, and college professors. He also works with various labor-management committees to foster better working relationships.

Prior to join FMCS Scott worked as a paralegal/tenant organizer at South Brooklyn Legal Services (SBLS) and eventually worked his way up to the position of Senior Staff Attorney. While at SBLS Scott gained labor-management experience as a steward, and local union official with his union, the United Auto Workers (UAW) – all while representing tenants in New York City's notorious Housing Court.

In 1998, Scott was appointed to be an International Representative of the UAW, assigned to Region 9A's New York City office, and in 2006 he became the UAW Region 9A New York Area Sub-regional Director, working on a wide breadth of collective bargaining, organizing, political issues, and coalition work for the UAW. In the latter stages of his career he became a greater proponent of using public and private mediators in particularly difficult collective bargaining situations.

Scott still lives in Brooklyn, and on a day-to-day basis tries to use his best mediating skills with his toddler daughter, to no avail – she's the better negotiator. His lifelong search for the perfect bagel never ends.